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at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 27th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. KHOUINI (Tunisia)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.20 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 74: REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES (continued) (A/47/76, A/47/262 and A/47/509; A/SPC/47/L.25-L.31)

Reports of the Secretary-General (A/47/545-551)

1. Mr. SHEVCHENKO (Ukraine) said that the international community must urge Israel to end the deportation of Palestinian civilians and accept the de jure applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention to all the occupied territories. Despite the partial freeze, the construction of settlements in the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, remained a matter of concern to his delegation, since some of the new settlers came from Ukraine. Israel should reconsider that policy and stop its confiscation of land, which would remove one of the major obstacles to peace in the Middle East.

2. Ukraine hoped that the current peace process would result in a comprehensive political settlement - the conflict being essentially political - on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). Noting the lack of progress, he stressed the essential role that the United Nations could play in the negotiations. A solution to the Middle East conflict was all the more imperative since it was one of the world's most militarized regions. In addition, for Ukraine, it was a neighbouring region.

3. His delegation would vote in favour of the draft resolutions submitted, but regretted that they did not address the complex issue in its entirety. He trusted that future resolutions would be more balanced.

4. Mr. AL-RASSI (Saudi Arabia) denounced the repressive measures taken by Israel, including the use of secret units which, completely autonomously, targeted the "freedom fighters" to be murdered. Nevertheless, those practices had not undermined the will of the Palestinian people to attain their rights, including the right to self-determination.

5. It was true that Israel had recently taken measures to ease some of the restrictions imposed on the Palestinians, and his delegation welcomed any measure to that end. Nevertheless, occupation remained occupation.

6. The international community must persuade Israel to accept the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 to the territories occupied by it. And Israel had an interest in so doing, since such a confidence-building measure would have a positive effect on the current peace process.

7. Mr. SALIMI (Afghanistan) recalled the Israeli arsenal of repressive measures, and stressed that the establishment of Jewish colonies in the occupied territories was in clear contravention of international legal instruments, including the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and hindered the success of the negotiating process.

8. Afghanistan condemned the attacks on the holy places of Israel and Christianity, with the aim of annexing Al-Quds.

9. His delegation welcomed the current negotiations and hoped that they would lead to the attainment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, including the right to an independent State in Palestine.

10. Mr. KA (Senegal) stressed the precariousness of the lives of the population of the occupied Arab territories, and recalled the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention to those territories, including Jerusalem. His delegation, while taking note of the new provisions and repeated appeals for peace issuing from the Israeli authorities, called upon the latter to improve the day-to-day living conditions of the inhabitants of the occupied territories so as not to push them into acts of violence and desperation.

11. With respect to the negotiating process begun in October 1991, he said that the willingness of the parties to negotiate for peace should be translated into practice through the implementation of the relevant international legal instruments. By establishing confidence, ending violence, creating a climate of confidence in the camps and improving the living conditions of the population, the Israeli Government could create conditions propitious to conclusion of the negotiations. In that connection, it was the duty of the international community to assist the parties to reach a comprehensive political settlement of the Middle East question in a manner that would redress the economic, political and moral injustices perpetrated upon the Arab people of Palestine for more than 40 years.

12. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its general debate on agenda item 74. Under that item it had before it draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.25 to L.31. India had joined the sponsors of draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.27, L.28 and L.29.

13. Mr. HUQ (Bangladesh) introduced draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.25, L.29, L.30 and L.31 on behalf of the sponsors. The question of Palestine was one of the greatest tragedies of modern times, and the position of his Government was consistent and categorical: Bangladesh's support for the Palestinian cause was unwavering. It was apparent from the Special Committee's report that the Israel authorities continued to violate the rights of the Palestinians and other Arabs living in the occupied territories, employing brutal means of repression which neither women nor children nor the elderly escaped, and which constituted flagrant violations of the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention and of the various resolutions of the Security Council on the question.

(Mr. Huo, Bangladesh)

14. His delegation hoped that the talks currently under way would lead to a just and lasting solution to the problem and that the peace process would take into account the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. A comprehensive, just and durable solution to the conflict could not be achieved unless Israel withdrew from Palestine, including Jerusalem and the territories occupied since 1967, in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and other relevant resolutions.

15. Since the draft resolutions submitted to the Committee did not differ much from those adopted by the General Assembly at its previous session, the sponsors hoped that they would be adopted by a wide majority.

16. Mr. MORENO FERNANDEZ (Cuba) introduced draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.26, L.27 and L.28 on behalf of their sponsors. Those resolutions reflected the sponsors' position regarding Israeli practices affecting the Palestinian people and other inhabitants of the occupied territories. He hoped that the draft resolutions would receive the broadest possible support.

17. Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America) said that the United States had a strong interest in the human rights situation in the occupied territories and maintained a constant dialogue with the Government of Israel on the subject. When the United States disagreed with Israeli policies, it made its views known to the Government of Israel and would continue to do so.

18. However, the peace process that had begun in Madrid in 1991 had radically changed the situation. Israel and its neighbours were currently engaged in direct negotiations on the issues presented in the draft resolutions. The rhetoric of past years should give way to an attitude that was more conducive to reconciliation and dialogue. Far from contributing to the protection of the human rights of the Palestinians in the occupied territories or promoting the search for a just and lasting peace, the one-sided and harsh language of the draft resolutions served only to divide the parties even further and make a negotiated settlement more difficult to achieve.

19. His delegation would have preferred that the Committee deferred its consideration of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.25. While it was true that the wording of the draft was not identical to that of the similar resolution adopted in 1991, and that it no longer contained references to "war crimes" and other unsubstantiated Israeli practices, his delegation nevertheless reaffirmed its objection to the substance of the draft. The United States could not support a provision urging the Security Council to consider measures to secure "international protection" for the Palestinian inhabitants of the occupied territories, which was impractical and did not address the underlying problems.

20. His delegation supported the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967. It therefore requested a separate vote on paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.26,

(Mr. Sherman, United States)

which it supported. His delegation would abstain in the vote on the draft resolution as a whole because the strident rhetoric that it contained did nothing to resolve the problems it sought to address.

21. Israel's establishment of new colonies in the occupied territories was an obstacle to peace. The United States would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.27 because it was unproductive to debate over the legalities of the issue, which diverted attention from the real task of promoting peace through direct negotiations.

22. His delegation could not support draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.28 because it did not address legitimate security problems as they existed in the occupied territories. Moreover, the United States remained opposed to the practice of administrative detention.

23. While it continued to oppose Israel's expulsion of Palestinian residents of the occupied territories, his delegation would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.29 because its harsh polemical tone offered no realistic solution.

24. His delegation had always considered that the Golan was occupied Syrian territory and that the provisions of the fourth Geneva Convention therefore applied to it. The United States was opposed to any unilateral action to alter the status of the territories occupied by Israel in 1967 because that was an issue that must be resolved through negotiations in accordance with Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). His delegation would abstain in the vote on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.30 because of its harsh and unbalanced wording.

25. The United States strongly objected to the content of paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.30.

26. In spite of strong concerns over the current situation with respect to education in the occupied territories, his delegation objected to draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.31 because sweeping condemnation of Israeli policies and practices was unjustified and counter-productive.

27. Finally, his delegation objected to references to Jerusalem in phrases such as "occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967". Those phrases, which described the territories demographically, were limited to territories occupied in 1967 and did not prejudge their status, which could be resolved only through negotiations. The United States was convinced that Jerusalem must remain undivided but that its final status should be decided through negotiations.

28. Mr. PODTSEROB (Russian Federation) said that the situation in the occupied territories had long been a matter of concern to the United Nations; however, the new measures aimed at normalization had somewhat improved the state of affairs. It was to be hoped that the negotiators and all interested parties would adopt a constructive approach. It was up to the United Nations to create an atmosphere conducive to the success of the negotiations; in that regard, his delegation was pleased that the overall tone of the discussion had been a little more restrained at the current session. The Russian Federation nevertheless considered that General Assembly resolutions should not deal with any of the issues that were currently the subject of negotiations. That was why the Russian Federation would abstain in the vote on all the draft resolutions, except the one dealing with the applicability of the Geneva Convention in the occupied territories.

29. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.25.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Romania, United States of America, Uruguay.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

30. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.25 was adopted by 74 votes to 6, with 43 abstentions.

31. A separate recorded vote was taken on paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.26.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: None.

32. Paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.26 was adopted by 123 votes to 1.

33. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.26 as a whole.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein,

Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Côte d'Ivoire, Micronesia (Federated States of), Paraguay, Russian Federation, United States of America.

34. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.26 was adopted by 118 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

35. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.27.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Micronesia (Federated States of), Russian Federation, United States of America.

36. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.27 was adopted by 119 votes to 1, with 3 abstentions.

37. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.28.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Micronesia (Federated States of), Paraguay, Russian Federation.

38. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.28 was adopted by 118 votes to 2, with 3 abstentions.

39. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.29.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Micronesia (Federated States of), Paraguay, Russian Federation, United States of America.

40. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.29 was adopted by 118 votes to 1, with 4 abstentions.

41. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.30.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives,

Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel.

Abstaining: Côte d'Ivoire, Micronesia (Federated States of), Paraguay, Russian Federation, United States of America.

42. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.30 was adopted by 116 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.

43. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.31.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Micronesia (Federated States of), Paraguay, Russian Federation.

44. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.31 was adopted by 116 votes to 2, with 5 abstentions.

45. The CHAIRMAN invited those delegations wishing to explain their vote after the vote to do so.

46. Mr. FREUDENSCHUSS (Austria) said that his delegation, which rejected Israeli practices in the occupied territories, had voted for all the draft resolutions except one. It had abstained in the vote on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.25 because, in spite of the changes made as compared with the 1991 text, his delegation considered some of the formulations contained in it unacceptable.

47. He pointed out that the participation of Yugoslavia in the work of the Special Committee, whose mandate the Third Committee had just extended, would contravene the provisions of Security Council resolution 777 (1992) and General Assembly resolution 47/1.

48. Miss HYLAND (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that they would have preferred not to have had draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.25 put to the vote because, despite some improvements over the resolution adopted in 1991, it still contained tendentious language which would not contribute to the peace process.

49. Ms. BIRD (Australia) said that her delegation had voted in favour of all the draft resolutions but one (A/SPC/47/L.25), but that it would have abstained if there had been a separate vote on paragraph 1 of draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.29 and L.30, which contained references to previous resolutions which Australia had not supported.

50. While Australia had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.31, it was nevertheless concerned at the continued closing of schools and universities by the Israeli authorities.

51. Her delegation also wished to state its understanding that the language used to refer to the occupied territories in the resolutions which had just been adopted and in other resolutions considered under other items referred only to the territories occupied by Israel since 1967.

52. Her delegation would like to suggest that the resolutions relating to agenda item 74 might be reviewed in 1993 with a view to minimizing repetition and duplication and ensuring that they reflected any developments in the situation.

53. Mr. TAYLOR (Canada) said that, despite the importance which his delegation attached to the obligations of States under the fourth Geneva Convention, it would have preferred to defer consideration of draft resolution "A" (A/SPC/47/L.25) in view of the peace process which had been initiated and the need for a calm and positive climate. Although an effort had been made to make the wording of the resolution less divisive than that used in similar resolutions in previous years, it was in places still tendentious and sometimes violent and prejudged the motives and responsibility for actions attributed to the Israeli Government.

54. Similarly, his delegation believed that the wording of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.31 did not reflect the improvement in the situation with regard to education in the occupied territories; for that reason, Canada had once again abstained in the vote on the draft resolution.

55. In general, the tone of the resolutions did not fully reflect the progress made in recent months. Polemics and recriminations should give way to a climate more favourable to the advancement of the peace process.

56. Mr. LOTFI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that, in view of the importance which his country attached to improving the lot of the Palestinian people, his delegation had voted in favour of all the draft resolutions. It had, however, reservations with regard to any language which implied recognition, implicit or explicit, of the Zionist entity.

57. Mr. GUVEN (Turkey) said that his delegation had voted in favour of all the draft resolutions. He emphasized that the United Nations had a collective responsibility with regard to the Palestinian refugees and that UNRWA was the basic instrument available to it to relieve the sufferings of the Palestinian people. His delegation believed that the Israeli Government should recognize the applicability of the fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories and put an end to any practices in breach of that Convention.

58. He believed that the question of Israeli practices in the occupied territories should be considered in the general context of the Middle East problem and, in particular, in the light of the realities of the peace process initiated in Madrid in 1991 which, even if it had not brought about a substantial improvement in the daily lives of the Palestinians in the occupied territories, gave grounds for hope that the parties to the process were no longer irrevocably tied to their long-standing positions. Turkey had welcomed the measures taken recently by the Israeli authorities to restore confidence in the region. His delegation regretted that the draft resolutions did not reflect the recent progress.

59. Mr. WIDE (Sweden) said that his delegation had voted in favour of six of the seven draft resolutions. It supported the substance of most of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.25 because it was seriously concerned about certain Israeli practices described therein. It had, however, abstained in the vote, despite the improvements made in the text compared with that adopted in 1991,

(Mr. Wide, Sweden)

since some statements in the resolution were not justified and the request in paragraph 10 did not fall within the mandate given to the General Assembly.

60. His delegation had voted in favour of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.30, but remained opposed to resolution ES-9/1, mentioned in the preamble.

61. Ms. RAVN (Norway) said that her delegation had voted in favour of all the draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 74 with the exception of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.25. The new Israeli Government had shown itself to be more conciliatory with regard to the Palestinian population; it had taken encouraging measures, such as the freeze on the construction of settlements in the occupied territories, and had a positive attitude during the negotiations in connection with the International Peace Conference on the Middle East. Norway once again appealed to Israel to apply the fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied territories.

62. Mr. ALVAREZ (Uruguay) said that his delegation was very concerned about the situation described in draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.25. While it recognized that the sponsors of the draft resolution had endeavoured to make improvements in the text compared with that adopted in previous years, it nevertheless believed that it was too tendentious to be acceptable.

AGENDA ITEM 73: UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY FOR PALESTINIAN REFUGEES IN THE NEAR EAST (continued) (A/SPC/47/L.14 to 24)

63. Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America), introducing draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.14, said that the United States continued to support the work of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and commended its efforts to meet the emergency needs of the refugees displaced as a result of the Gulf conflict, as well as those affected by the violence in Lebanon and those living in the occupied territories. The United States appealed to all countries, in particular those in the region, to donate generously to UNRWA. The United States was committed to the search for a just and lasting comprehensive peace settlement and to that end supported the direct bilateral negotiations between Israel, the Arab States and the Palestinians on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973).

64. Ms. MINDERHOUD (Netherlands) introduced draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.15 on behalf of the 23 sponsors and expressed the hope that it would be adopted without a vote, as in previous years.

65. Mr. WIDE (Sweden) introduced draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.16 and expressed the hope that it would be adopted by consensus.

66. Mr. ZIAUDDIN (Bangladesh), introducing draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.17, L.20, L.21 and L.23, pointed out that UNRWA had been established as a temporary agency and that its mandate could be terminated if a just and lasting solution to the problem of Palestine could be found. His country hoped that the current peace process in the Middle East would lead to a satisfactory solution.

67. Mr. MURTAZA (Pakistan) introduced draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.18, L.19, L.22 and L.24. Pakistan was following with keen interest the current Middle East peace negotiations and believed that a lasting solution should be based on Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973). Pakistan was concerned over the report of the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, in particular the problems encountered by the staff of the Agency in the discharge of their functions. It was only because of the presence of UNRWA that the people of Palestine had access to educational, health and relief services.

68. The CHAIRMAN invited delegations which wished to explain their votes before the vote to do so.

69. Mr. SHERMAN (United States of America) said that his delegation supported draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.14, of which it was a sponsor, and reiterated its support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. The United States was pleased to join in the consensus on draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.15 and A/SPC/47/L.16. His delegation also supported draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.17, but had reservations with regard to paragraph 5, since it was opposed to the establishment of the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds".

70. His delegation would vote against draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.18 to L.24 since the texts were highly politicized, criticized Israel's treatment of refugees and contained proposals that were financially unsound. Such draft resolutions made no practical contribution to UNRWA's objectives and only served to exacerbate tensions. Thus, draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.18 made no reference to the negotiations conducted by the parties to the conflict with a view to achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace. Further, with respect to the issuance of identification cards to Palestine refugees, only the Commissioner-General should have authority to administer UNRWA programmes. His delegation opposed measures taken by Israel that were inconsistent with international law, such as the destruction of dwellings in the occupied territories. The United States would not, however, object in principle to the voluntary relocation of refugees.

71. His delegation opposed draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.19 because it attempted to usurp the authority of the Commissioner-General, who had decided to end the distribution of rations to refugees, he having sole authority for decisions relating to the administration of UNRWA programmes.

72. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.20 was unacceptable since it did not refer to the ongoing direct negotiations among the parties concerned.

(Mr. Sherman, United States)

73. The United States objected to draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.21 since it did not place the question of compensation for refugees in the context of a negotiated settlement.

74. Equally, his delegation did not support draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.22 owing to its extreme and biased language.

75. The United States also opposed draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.23, which was unrealistic and offered no practical approach to the problem. It would be inappropriate for the General Assembly to take a decision regarding the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds".

76. Lastly, his delegation was opposed to draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.24. His Government was deeply concerned over school closures and the disruption of UNRWA activities, and continued to discuss those concerns with Israel, an approach which had resulted in positive changes that had not been reflected in the draft resolution.

77. Mr. PODTSEROB (Russian Federation) paid tribute to UNRWA and stressed the importance of the humanitarian assistance it provided. Nevertheless, a genuine solution to the question of Palestine must be found within the framework of the current peace process. More than ever the parties to the negotiations must evidence a positive and constructive spirit and reject any measures that would undermine the negotiations, for a climate propitious to the settlement of the question must be established. Accordingly it was not desirable to adopt draft resolutions on questions under consideration in the negotiations. His delegation would thus abstain in the votes on draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.20, L.21, L.22 and L.23. Nevertheless UNRWA must continue its activities, given which he supported the other draft resolutions submitted under agenda item 73.

78. The CHAIRMAN, before inviting the Committee to vote, said, with regard to the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.15 concerning the Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, that the Programme Planning and Budget Division had indicated that if the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be asked to provide the necessary services to the Working Group. In accordance with activities covered under section 3 (Political and Security Council affairs), subprogramme 1 (Security Council and political committees activities), of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/46/6/Rev.1), substantive services for the Working Group were already provided for. With regard to conference-servicing needs, it was assumed that the Working Group would hold 10 meetings in New York in 1993, but that services would be provided on an as-available basis under the regular programme of the Office of Conference Services. The draft resolution would thus not result in any additional expenditure.

(The Chairman)

79. With regard to draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.18 on Palestine refugees in the Palestinian territory occupied by Israel since 1967, the Programme Planning and Budget Division had indicated in its report on the question (A/47/489) that the Secretary-General was unable to comply with the request addressed to him in General Assembly resolution 46/46 E, paragraph 3, that he should resume issuing identification cards to all Palestine refugees and their descendants. The report further indicated that the Commissioner-General did not have the means to issue identity cards as such. The Secretary-General regretted that he was unable to comply with the same request addressed to him in paragraph 3 of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.18. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would, however, keep the situation under review with the aim of determining whether it was possible to comply with the request.

80. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.14.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

81. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.14 was adopted by 122 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

82. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.15 was adopted without a vote.

83. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.16 was adopted without a vote.

84. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.17.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: None.

Abstaining: Israel.

85. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.17 was adopted by 122 votes to none, with 1 abstention.

86. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.18.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana,

Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

87. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.18 was adopted by 119 votes to 2.

88. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.19.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Fiji, Greece, Liechtenstein, Marshall Islands, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Spain.

89. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.19 was adopted by 86 votes to 22, with 14 abstentions.

90. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.20.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

91. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.20 was adopted by 87 votes to 2, with 32 abstentions.

92. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.21.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait,

Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Oman, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Marshall Islands, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Sweden, Togo, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

93. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.21 was adopted by 85 votes to 2, with 34 abstentions.

94. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.22.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Russian Federation.

95. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.22 was adopted by 119 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

96. The CHAIRMAN, referring to the financial implications of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.23 concerning the University of Jerusalem "Al-Quds" for Palestine refugees, said that the Programme Planning and Budget Division had informed him that if the General Assembly adopted the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would continue to consider that in order to follow up the provisions of paragraph 2, the functional feasibility study undertaken pursuant to previous resolutions of the General Assembly on the issue (see document A/47/601) would have to be completed. As that did not seem possible at present, the Secretary-General was not in a position to prepare a statement of the financial implications. If there was a change in the situation in 1993, steps could be taken under procedures for unforeseen and extraordinary expenditures. Proposals and a statement of estimated expenditures would then be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, together with the report requested in paragraph 4 of the draft resolution.

97. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.23.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: Russian Federation.

98. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.23 was adopted by 119 votes to 2, with 1 abstention.

99. A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.24.

In favour: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against: Israel, United States of America.

Abstaining: None.

100. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.24 was adopted by 119 votes to 2.

101. Mr. MANSOUR (Israel) said that, by abstaining on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.14, his delegation was expressing its consistent opposition to paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 194 (III) of 11 December 1948 and paragraph 2 of General Assembly resolution 513 (VI) of 26 January 1952. The Working Group on refugee issues had recently held another session in Ottowa with the participation of some 40 countries, as well as the United Nations. One-sided United Nations resolutions had done nothing to help resolve the plight of the refugees. It was through the bilateral and multilateral talks which his country was currently holding with its Arab neighbours that the

(Mr. Mansour, Israel)

question of Arab and Jewish refugees would be discussed and, it was to be hoped, resolved. His delegation's abstention on draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.14 would have no bearing on the work and the extension of the mandate of UNRWA. As his delegation had stated before the Committee at previous sessions and during the current year's debate on the question, his Government would continue to cooperate with UNRWA to enable it to fulfil its important humanitarian task.

102. Miss HYLAND (United Kingdom), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the fact that the Twelve had voted against or abstained in the vote on certain draft resolutions did not mean that UNRWA would not continue to enjoy their support. They were also concerned about the financial situation of the Agency and, for humanitarian reasons, they supported the development of the various services provided to Palestinian refugees. However, they felt that some of the requests addressed to the Commissioner-General were unrealistic.

103. Ms. BIRD (Australia) said that some of the issues concerning Palestinian refugees, dealt with in the draft resolutions just adopted, were being considered by the multilateral working group on refugees in the context of the negotiations currently in progress. The resolutions should not prejudge the outcome of those negotiations.

104. With respect to draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.24, her delegation said that, while it regretted certain irksome Israeli practices affecting educational institutions and UNRWA facilities, it welcomed the reopening of all universities in the occupied territories.

105. Mr. LOTFI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his delegation had voted for draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.14 to L.24 because of Iran's commitment to the Palestinian cause. His delegation nevertheless reiterated its well-known reservations concerning the wording of certain provisions of the drafts that, explicitly or implicitly, recognized the Zionist entity.

106. Mr. FUENTES-IBAÑEZ (Bolivia) said that his delegation had not supported certain draft resolutions because their wording reflected the hard line that had been adopted in recent years. While it was highly concerned at the sacrifices made by the Palestinians, his delegation was encouraged by the progress that had been achieved and the statement made by the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Rabin, during a recent interview broadcast by a French television station. It was important to exercise restraint until the outcome of the negotiations.

107. Mr. MANSOUR (Observer for Palestine) thanked the countries that had voted for the draft resolutions that had just been adopted. The large number of delegations voting in favour of the draft resolutions demonstrated how much support there was for the struggle of the Palestinian people. The implementation of the provisions of those draft resolutions should make it possible to improve the lot of the Palestinian people.

108. Mr. VALDEZ (Paraguay) said that his delegation had mistakenly abstained in the vote on draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.28, L.29, L.30 and L.31, while it had wished not to take part in the vote.

109. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of agenda item 73, and that the Pledging Conference for UNRWA would take place on Wednesday, 2 December 1992, at 10 a.m. in the Trusteeship Council.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

110. After an exchange of courtesies, in which Mr. DHALLADOO (Mauritius), on behalf of the Group of African States, Mr. AL-SUWAIDI (United Arab Emirates), on behalf of the Group of Asian States, Mr. ALIYEV (Azerbaijan), on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, Mr. BIVERO (Venezuela), on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and Mr. URTASUN (Spain), on behalf of the Group of Western European and Other States, took part, the CHAIRMAN declared that the Special Political Committee had completed its work for the forty-seventh session.

The meeting rose at 6.25 p.m.